



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul Helliher  
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

April 13, 2004

WHS 04-03

TO: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LANGUAGE SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

The Worker Health and Safety (WHS) Branch recently completed revisions to Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets in English and Spanish. WHS is interested in developing and/or providing outreach materials to agricultural workers (i.e., pesticide handlers and fieldworkers) in a variety of languages as the needs are identified, and funding becomes available. For example, WHS is currently working with the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner to develop pesticide safety training videos in Mixteco based on the need identified by Fresno County. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 is partially funding this project through their discretionary funds. Although a majority of the outreach materials are in written form, we have also identified a need to develop other types of outreach materials (e.g., videos and picture books) to address languages that do not have a written form.

Despite researching a number of data sources (i.e., United States Census, United States Department of Agriculture Census, and National Agricultural Workers Survey), we have not found useful data on specific languages spoken by agricultural workers. We have also contacted California Rural Legal Assistance, United Farm Workers, and the California Institute for Rural Studies. None of these organizations could provide us with data on languages spoken by agricultural workers.

We are asking you to complete the attached, Agricultural Worker Language Survey, for your county by checking the box next to any language(s) you believe are spoken by workers in your county, and providing an estimate (if you have that information) of the number of workers who may speak that language. Additionally, if you or any of the farmworker groups that you work with are aware of data that could be of use to us, we would welcome that information. Please respond by e-mail to Susan McCarthy from my staff by Friday, May 7.



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Thank you for your assistance in this valuable project. Again, please direct any comments or questions you have to Susan McCarthy, at (916) 445-6387 or [smccarthy@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:smccarthy@cdpr.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*[original signed by C. Andrews]*

Charles M. Andrews, Chief  
Worker Health and Safety Branch  
(916) 445-4222

Attachment

cc: Mr. Daniel J. Merkley, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison, (w/attachment)  
Ms. Sue Edmiston, Agriculture Program Specialist III, WHS (w/attachment)  
Ms. Susan McCarthy, Program Specialist, WHS, (w/attachment)

**Attachment**

**Agricultural Worker Language Survey**

<b>County:</b>		
<b>Language</b>	<b>Language Used in this County?</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Agricultural Workers Using This as Their Primary Language</b>
Mixteco		
Triquis		
Zapoteco		
Purepecha (Tarascan)		
Konjabal (Guatemalan)		
Punjabi		
Hmong		
Tagalog		
Other (specify):		